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ABSTRACT

One of eight papers from Project Seed, this paper describes a project in which 10 alternative high school students, one teacher, and one aide researched, wrote, interviewed, taped, and edited a 64-minute news format video on a variety of sexuality issues: anatomy, physiology, sexually transmitted diseases, birth control, pregnancy options (adoption, abortion), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), rape, incest, and sexual orientation. It is noted that 24 copies of the resulting video were sold to high schools, alternative education programs, an adolescent shelter, The AIDS Coalition, the Maine Department of Education Curriculum Division, and Activism 2000 in Washington, D.C. Goals and objectives of the project (HIV/AIDS peer education, video technology, career development) are listed, as are anticipated outcomes of the project. A procedures and instruction section explains how to implement such a project. Resources needed for the project are discussed and project costs are described. The telephone number of the teacher who initiated the program is included for those readers interested in undertaking a similar project. (NB)

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"R.E.A.L. KIDS TALK ABOUT REAL SEX"

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Project SEED

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R.E.A.L. KIDS TALK ABOUT REAL SEX

Carla Baade Turner
Windham REAL School

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Ten alternative high school students with one teacher and one aide, who did not take a video technician among them researched, wrote, interviewed, taped and edited a 64 minute news format video. These 10, 11 and 12th graders, aged 15-18, interviewed representatives from 11 agencies who provide public information on anatomy, physiology, STDs, birth control, pregnancy options (adoption pro/con, abortion pro/con), HIV/AIDS, rape, incest, and sexual orientation.

This project integrated English, social studies, interpersonal relations, health, art and media studies. Students used five periods per day for one semester to work from story outline to premier showing of the video. Twenty-four copies were sold to high schools, alternative education programs, teen shelter, The AIDS Coalition, Maine Department of Education Curriculum Division, and Activism 2000 in Washington, D.C.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of this project was HIV/AIDS peer education, the secondary was video technology. Tertiary was the career development aspect.

OUTCOMES

- Creation of a professional production atmosphere;
- Human sexuality, HIV/AIDS especially, became comfortable for us to discuss;
- Students became aware and interested in the many media careers available locally.

PROCEDURE AND INSTRUCTION

Pick your topic, contact local resources, do lessons in using the gear, visit TV studio, develop story board (outline for program), schedule interviews (warn interviewee things could go wrong - forgot the tape, forgot the interview, dead battery, forgot battery, forgot tripod, sound did not work, light all wrong), schedule assignments (camera work, light man, interviewer) for each interview, schedule edit machine time (we used other schools - a TV station would help later), shoot anchor team segments, editing lessons, beg for help, learn special effects, choose music, shoot credits, have master duplicated, invited everyone who had anything to do with the tape,

including parents, to premiere night, sell tapes at premiere, then take orders. We are still selling ours and a local TV station makes our duplicates. Somewhere along the line contact the media. They were very interested and continue to monitor our project.

RESOURCES

TOPICAL

- Planned Parenthood 874-1095
- Adoption Search Council Maine (ASCME) 799-4760
- My Choice Adoption Agency 772-7555
- Right to Life Hotline 828-1366
- The AIDS Project774-6877
- People with AIDS Coalition 773-8500
- The Rape Crisis Center 774-3613
- Outright P.O. Box , Portland, Maine 0410
- Incest Survivors Group (through Rape Crisis Center)

TECHNICAL

- Bonny Eagle High, Windham High, Video Editing
- Remember with Video 799-6617
  Video duplication
- Expanded Video Inc. 773-7005
  Video effects, credits

MATERIAL

- Video camera
- Tripod
- 36 tapes

EDUCATION

I took a five day summer course at Bates College: Video Production For Teachers.

PROJECT COSTS

We had a $300 Student Leadership Grant from the office of HIV/AIDS Curriculum, of the State Department of Education. This was used for production of 25 duplicates which were sold to other

programs and agencies. The revenue was used for further HIV education. All other services were donated.

CONCLUSION

This project developed along a "Fox Fire" model quite by accident. The nice thing about it is that it is easily adapted to any of the parts we integrated. More often than not shorter tapes than ours are better,more useful. Ours tends to be used in topical segments, therefore creation of a more focused piece could be done in less time etc.,etc. Topic, time, and depth can all be modified to suit your needs or wishes. The movie making process really helped these high school students bridge the gap between the worlds of school and work. By having contact with non-supervisory adults they learned genuine cooperation and teamwork for the real world. By working in a semi-professional atmosphere on a nearly constant basis the students virtually created their own job shadows.

The peer teaching component proved to be the most effective method for insuring that they actually learned the content material.

This project offered an unique way for teens to help teens, and to connect with a broad range of community service agencies. As a direct result of this project, our students were chosen to host the state Student Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS, and to present at the Department of Education Sugarloaf HIV/AIDS conference organized for 300 teachers. The students were exceptionally proud of their accomplishment and were rewarded with genuine acclaim.

Please call me at the REAL School, 892-4462 for words of encouragement and anything else you need!